

Magnuson Park / Northshore Recreation Area (NSRA) Phase I Improvements Project

Meeting Date: 2/9/05

Time: 7:00 PM

Subject: NSRA Public Meeting

Present (Parks Staff and Consultants): Garrett Farrell (City), Peter Hummel (Anchor Environmental), Kevin Bergsrud (City), Charles Ng (City), Eric Friedli (City)

Present (Members of the Public): See attached sign in sheet

Introduction: Garrett Farrell:

The meeting is being now because all permits have been issued and the Phase I project is in final design and will constructed in the latter half of 2005.

Changes Since Previous Public Meeting: Peter Hummel

The previous public meeting was held late in 2002 when permitting was starting and design development had been completed for the entire Northshore Area. The following changes occurred as a result of permitting and design refinement:

1. Middle Fixed Structure and Floating Dock Deleted: Floating docks were redistributed to the east and west proposed docks, lengthening them. Middle dock area is very shallow, good salmon habitat, and not cost effective as a dock location.
2. East and West Fixed Structures and Gangways Grated Deck Surfacing: This is a requirement for light penetration and fish migration.
3. Off-Site Mitigation Area at Magnuson Park: A 600 foot long 10 foot wide band of native willows will be installed along the shoreline north of the Magnuson Park swim beach to as partial compensation for the beach and active use of the shoreline at the Northshore. This type of revegetation is typically required on lake Washington as part of Endangered Species Act (ESA) Guidance.

Phase I Project Scope: Peter

Phase I consists of three components that were illustrated on an 8-1/2"x11" color handout. The total construction cost for these improvements is estimated at approximately \$1million. :

1. Non-motorized Boating Access: 600 foot long beach, two launchramps, and the west fixed structure/floating dock with ADA access components. Approximately \$500,000 of total.
2. Mitigation for Boating Access: Focus of mitigation is on creating a net benefit to salmon and salmon habitat. On site and off-site components including removal of derelict structures, including the south end of Bldg. 31, cutting back and revegetating the shoreline west of the pier and offsite (described above). Approximately \$300,000 of total.
3. Hillside Picnic Area and Trails: Regrading for trail and picnic area, trail crushed rock surfacing, and grass seeding and irrigation. Approximately \$200,000.00 of total

Artwork: Kevin Bergsrud

Kevin described two art pieces that the City is considering for locating in the Northshore:

1. Endless Gates: Four separate painted material architectural gate-like pieces, each painted a different color and intended for people to individually walk through. Formerly at Seattle Center.
2. Nellie Cornish Fountains: Two fountains formerly along State Route 520 on Union Bay (Seattle) side of highway. Fountains have large metal blades.

C: Robert Peal, Center for Wooden Boats- Haida canoe carver: Shoreline shallow along bulkhead. Important to spend money on salmon improvements. Want to see more involvement by native communities. Glad to see improvement at Carkeek where salmon coming back.

Q: Bonnie Miller, Hawthorne Hills CC: Did not understand cutting back of beach area.

A: Peter: Will remove roadway to Bldg. 275 remove bulkhead, and regrade shoreline to increase aquatic area where formerly filled in. New aquatic area will have woody debris, and be planted with willows and emergent native vegetation.

Q: When will regrading occur? Concerned how timing will affect wildlife and salmon.

A. In-Water Work window July 15 – Dec. 30, 2005. Timing restrictions are set by state and federal agencies in order to protect fish and wildlife.

Q: Will shore space be provided for turtles during construction?

A. Construction may have some temporary impacts on aquatic wildlife. However, new habitat will be a significant improvement for a wide range of species. There will be more woody debris (logs) for turtles than presently exists, for instance. Plantings and shore configuration is a result of fish and wildlife permitting requirements.

Q: Bonnie Miller: What will happen to Memorial Grove?

A: Trees will and rock wall will stay. Wood chip/grass area will be replanted with native wetland vegetation where wetland exists.

Q: Citizen: How will the project affect geese? Concerned about the project increasing the number of geese at the site:

A. More native tree and shrubs vegetation will be planted,— helps deter geese feeding. There will be a significant decrease in open lawn along the shoreline which geese favor as habitat.

Q: Maria – NOAA: Will you start July 15 and how will you mitigate impacts to sailing programs?

A. Garrett: We must perform work within an in-water work window mandated by permits. Discussion with board and management of Sail Sandpoint (SSP) will take place outside this public meeting at a separate meeting. This is a City/tenant issue. SSP has a permit with the City to operate their programs at the site.

Q: Citizen asked for raise of hands of those impacted by construction, boaters etc.

A. Most of audience in room raised hands.

Garrett explained that price of construction would increase if contractor's access to the project is limited by SSP's programs. This would mean less of the water access improvements would fit in the budget.

Q: Citizen: What is the timeframe between completing design and starting construction?

A: Garrett: It is estimated that it will take two months between advertise to bid and notice to proceed on construction.

Q: *Are construction documents complete?*

A: **1st week April to get to 90% complete CD's.**

Q: *Timeline – what is timeline for providing recreation programming long term? What is long-term goal?*

A: **Facilities: 20-year minimum life expectancy for hand-launched boating facilities such as floating docks. The non-motorized boating emphasis of the site is in the master plan and has been for many years. The City is making a major long term investment in this use continuing and expanding in this location.**

Q: *Jon Edwards, SSP: Wonderful views from hill to Lake Washington. Will views be “wiped out” due to willow plantings?*

A: **Willows will be planted along the water's edge, and will be too low to block views from Sand Point Way, and the upper part of the hill. The plans call for more trees than exist today, however, all tree planting will take views into account, so that a “wall” of tall trees is not created blocking views from up on the hill and in the hillside picnic area.**

Q: *Jim Soules, Sand Point Boating Center: Access? Chain link fence, gate? NOAA access road?*

A: **Eric Friedli: City and NOAA discussions on opening the NOAA Access Road gate have stalled. Several federal agencies involved. 911 slowed process down due to security issues. Pedestrian trail from Sand Point Way to Bldg. 275 is for Fire Dept. access. A public connection to Sand Point Way will involve another City department, Seattle Transportation, (SDOT), because the street and sidewalk is within their Right of Way.**

Q: *Joe Fuller, SSP: Is BMX/Group Health Bike Trail part of plan?*

A: **Garrett: No, much of the hillside areas are in Environmentally Critical Areas due to steep slopes, and wetlands. BMX trails will be removed following the mid February Bike Expo.**

Q: *Jonathan Tellios: Is water depth in summer adequate to wade boat to shore?*

A: **3.5 minimum foot summer (high water) depth at bottom of proposed ramps and beach with a gradual slope up to the top of the bulkhead.**

Q: *Lynn (citizen): Very pleased with how the Dog Off Leash Area at Magnuson Park turned out. This work did not start until September (under same permitting time restrictions). Is it possible that Fall & Winter would be better to start construction at Northshore?*

A: **Parks have window of time to complete work – if shortened, cost increases. The Northshore is a much larger project than the Dog Off Leash area, and will take longer to complete.**

Q: *Ian (citizen): What is value of \$300,000 in mitigation to public? Why can't all the money be spent on recreation? Why build restored area-no one will use them.*

A: Environmental laws mandate compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts. Impacts to aquatic resources will occur in order to construct new beach at bulkhead, ramps and docks.

Q: : What will ramp surfaces be?

A: Pre-cast concrete planks, slide together placed on steel girders and crushed rock base. .

Q: Wasn't there a discussion about other surfaces on ramps?

A. Peter: Was not aware of other surfaces and surface must be both durable over many years and slip resistant. Citizen then answered own question that discussion occurred at SSP meeting.

Q: Eric Weller: Will sloping gravel beach come up to bulkhead edge?

A. Peter: Intent is to have it come nearly to the top, but not spilling over on to the concrete paving. Initially design is showing gravel ending 6 inches below concrete paving surface/top of bulkhead.

C: Important to know what programs SSP will offer this summer to plan for children's activities.

Q: Abigail Plummon: Are times stipulated for construction work?

A: Yes (see above).

Q: Isn't much of the hillside area steep? Too steep for picnic areas, etc.

A: Yes and no; some areas will be reshaped to be flatter, some areas will be steeper. A significant amount of earthwork is needed to reshape the area for the trails and picnic area.

Q: Any provision for electricity to East ramp? Put conduit in at this time?

A: Yes, long term but not in first phase.

Q: Possibility to look at conduit under new beach?

A. Can consider putting in empty conduit in Phase I. Compatibility of conduit with high water levels needs to be evaluated.

C: Endless gates will be out of scale on site, especially with natural replanting. These sculptures belong in Fremont(meaning that a more urban location would be better).

Q: Bonnie Miller: Any landscaping plan?

A: Yes, one developed for State Fisheries Permit.

C: Want to see use of native grasses, not lawn turf grasses that need water and fertilizer..

C: Robert Peal: would like to share song.

Q: Is anything going to be done about Eurasian milfoil (an exotic aquatic plant) in the lake as part of the project?

A. No. This is a management issue, not a capital project issue. Parks does not attempt to eliminate milfoil in Lake Washington (too widespread).

Q: What is the edge of the dock going to be made out of? Will there be cleats? If so what kind?

A. Edge of the floating dock will be wood walers continuously along the outside of the concrete floats. There will be cleats and no bulrails on the docks. Type of cleats not selected yet.

C. Dick Rose: Suggest using cleats that are recessed into the wood walers, with a bar across the top to tie up to. Recess should be a couple inches deep. Then there is nothing sticking up.

Q: Is there an ability to dictate the sequence of construction work?

A: Yes, but due to public bidding process it would increase construction costs. Cannot negotiate this in advance as with private construction contracts. .

Q: Where would handicapped person dock their boat?

A: The proposed west dock shown in Phase 1 plan includes some ADA access features.

Q: How tall are floating docks proposed to be above water?

A: 6-8 inches, low freeboard based on previous public meeting boater input.

Q: Concern about stability of gravel and wave/boat wake action; will gravel remain? Will it be easy to haul hand-launched boats out of water?

A. Peter: A wind wave analysis of beach stability was conducted for the permitting;. Most of the gravel is 1-1/2"-1/2" size range is designed to be stable under the site conditions. A surface layer of "pea gravel" is less likely to stay on the beach long term. All gravel will be natural rounded rock.

Q: Can block and tackle be installed?

A: Looking at eventual motorized capstan.

Robert Peal ended meeting with song at 8:55 PM.